

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. CBS's refusal to air a documentary that might be perceived as PRO-Kerry is an instance of censorship; Sinclair Broadcasting's decision is clearly an instance of partisanship. We have no objection to the showing of the film; only to the pretense that it is "news." If it must be shown as "news," then show UP THE RIVER, which is equally "news."

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.